

State of Hawaii  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
Division of State Parks  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

October 14, 2010

Board of Land  
and Natural Resources  
Honolulu, Hawaii

AN INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING ON KAENA POINT ADVISORY GROUP'S  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT OF KAENA POINT STATE PARK  
RESERVE

At its public meeting for the Ocean Recreation Management Plan (ORMP) for Kaena Point on November 18, 2008, the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Kaena Point Stewardship Team discussed the creation of an Advisory Group to encourage public involvement facilitate discussion and recommendations related to the ORMP. The purpose of this group is to advise the Board of Land and Natural Resources on the management of Kaena Point through recommendations developed through communication and involvement with the public and neighboring communities and users.

On February 25, 2009, DLNR held a public workshop to select the members of the Kaena Point Advisory Group (KPAG). The purpose of this meeting was to identify and select representatives and alternates for three user groups at Kaena Point. These user groups were the fishing community, cultural practitioners, and conservationists. Several organized interest groups with representatives were already identified as potential KPAG Members. These groups included the Burial Council, Waianae Neighborhood Board, Friends of Kaena Point, North Shore Neighborhood Board, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and YMCA Camp Erdman.

KPAG began meeting on April 14, 2009. They established ground rules for the group and identified their purpose and scope of involvement with DLNR and its ORMP. For the past year, KPAG has been meeting to discuss the ORMP, management of Kaena Point State Park and recommendations to the Board of Land and Natural Resources. KPAG has also conducted several site visits to the park to observe users, familiarize them with the area, and conduct work days to protect sand dunes with the assistance of DLNR staff. On July 27, 2010, the Advisory Group held an informational meeting to the public during the North Shore Neighborhood Board Meeting. At this meeting, the group presented their recommendations and gathered public comment using paper surveys and an electronic online survey. With this information, KPAG finalized their recommendations and drafted a report for DLNR.

The Advisory Group has reached consensus on five recommendations on management at Kaena Point State Park. KPAG recommends protection of the Leina A Ka Uthane; protection and restoration of the sand dunes; management and prevention of erosion, especially in areas such as

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Manini Gulch; the designation of a road; and the creation and implementation of a permitting system for the area beyond the paved road. These findings and recommendations are more specifically outlined in the attached report to the BLNR. (See attached "Kaena Point Advisory Group Findings and Recommendations to the Board of Land and Natural Resources")

Respectfully submitted,



CURT COTTRELL  
Assistant State Parks Administrator  
Division of State Parks

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



LAURA H. THIELEN, Chairperson  
Board of Land and Natural Resources

cc:

Dan Quinn, State Parks Administrator  
Paul Conry, DOFAW Administrator  
Kaena Point Advisory Group  
Kaena Point Stewardship Team

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**KAENA POINT ADVISORY GROUP FINDINGS AND  
RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL  
RESOURCES**

Kaena Point is a special place filled with natural beauty, culturally important sites, and a strong spiritual presence. These qualities that make Kaena Point special are now threatened by irresponsible uses. Four wheel drive vehicles drive thru sensitive coastal sand dune ecosystems, many containing important Hawaiian cultural resources. These same operators create mud bogs and serious soil erosion problems in the Kaena Point Park Reserve. Uninformed visitors mistakenly climb on top of the Leina A Ka Uhane causing damage to this sacred Hawaiian site. Kaena Point State Park Reserve and its resources are in trouble and in need of improved management. This report outlines a number of recommendations to the Board for implementation. We are confident that these recommendations will continue to allow for continued responsible use of the area and reduce destructive activities.

A brief history of the Kaena Point Advisory Group (KPAG) is described in the cover letter of this report. The members of KPAG have put in many volunteer hours in meetings, site visits, and work days. Discussions have been emotional at times but civil, with each group advocating for their perspective. Consensus was the goal and was achieved most of the time. If not achieved it was agreed that a minority opinion would be reported out.

## Recommendations

1. The Department of Land and Natural Resources through its assigned Division's, take appropriate action to protect the Leina A Ka Uhane. Protections should include Signage as to the cultural importance of the site, including specific language instructing visitors not to climb on top of it and to refrain from any other actions that could cause damage to it. We encourage DLNR and Office of Hawaiian Affairs to collaborate on funding, wording, and installation of the signage.

This recommendation was approved unanimously.

2. The Department of Land and Natural Resources through its assigned Division's take appropriate actions to protect the sand dune ecosystems. Protections should consider the use of boulders, pilings, fencing, and any other reasonable manner to a physical barrier to vehicles.

This recommendation was approved unanimously.

3. The Department of Land and Natural Resources through its assigned Division's, take appropriate actions to protect areas within the Kaena Point State Park Reserve from continuing degradation and soil erosion caused by irresponsible vehicular access. The Manini Gulch area should be a priority site. Protection should consider the use of boulders, pilings, fencing, and any other reasonable manner to provide a physical barrier to the areas. Once barriers are in place additional measures should be implemented to reduce erosion.

This recommendation had consensus but fishermen expressed concern about vehicular access to fishing spots.

4. The Department of Land and Natural Resources through its assigned Division's, take appropriate steps to designate an appropriate road in the Kaena Point State Park Reserve. This would provide clarity to the existing Administrative Rule governing where vehicles should be operated. There are two options put forth for consideration. A majority position that only the upper road be designated, and a minority position that the upper road with a network of extensions to the ocean be designated. Once a road is designated the demarcation of the road could include the use of boulders, pilings, fencing, signage, and any other reasonable manner to provide guidance to vehicle operators as to where they should be operating. Signage and maps of the location of the designated road should be made available to Kaena Point State Park Reserve users.

The upper road recommendation will minimize the impacts of vehicle use. The upper road and network recommendation was favored by fishermen who desired continued vehicular access close to the ocean

5. The Department of Land and Natural Resources through its assigned Division's, secure the gate at the end of the paved road with a combination lock. Create an entry permit system, providing permittee's with access to the combination, which would be changed at a frequency determined by the Division. The access permit should have a vehicle registration component allowing for cross referencing the vehicle with the permittee. Other suggested conditions of the permit should include the acknowledgement of receipt and understanding of the Kaena Point State Park Reserve Administrative Rules, and a provision to revoke the permit for any violation of the rules. The Division should also consider any other reasonable conditions to the permit that allow for safe efficient management of Reserve.

This recommendation was supported by the majority of the group with the exception of the fishermen.

The Kaena Point Advisory Group respectfully submits these recommendations to the Board of Land and Natural Resources for consideration in the management of Kaena State Park Reserve. We will continue to meet and make further recommendations in the future. Mahalo, for your consideration.